

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for washing produce comprising the steps of:

providing a washing section having a washing unit disposed thereon so as to position spray nozzles above said washing section; providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said washing section and adapted to transport produce through said washing unit from an entry point of said washing section to a terminating point of said washing section;

wherein said conveyor belt apparatus further comprises produce receiving baskets adapted to receive said produce and to expose a top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce receiving baskets comprises an upper ring that is dimensioned to receive a single item of said produce therein and that is open at an upper portion thereof to permit said single item of said produce to be placed therein, a base ring having a smaller diameter than said upper ring and that is open at a lower portion thereof and support members projecting from said base ring to said upper ring;

harvesting produce from a field;

placing said produce in said produce receiving baskets;

passing said produce receiving baskets with said produce therein through said washing unit; and

exposing said top portion of said produce to spray emanating from said spray nozzles located above said washing section;

wherein said produce is lettuce.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing a loading section pivotally coupled to said washing
section at said entry point of said washing section;
providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said loading
section and adapted to transport produce along said loading
section from an entry point of said loading section to a
terminating point of said loading section and from there to said
entry point of said washing section;

loading said produce on said conveyor belt apparatus on said
loading section; and

transporting said produce along said loading section to said
washing section.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
providing an upward angled ascending section positioned at
said terminating point of said washing section, after said washing
unit;

providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said ascending
section and adapted to transport produce along said ascending
section from an entry point of said ascending section to a
terminating point of said ascending section; and

transporting said produce upward along said ascending
section.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said conveyor belt
apparatus located on said ascending section further comprises a
plurality of steps located thereon and dimensioned to prevent said
produce from falling backward as it travels upward along said
ascending section.

5. The method of Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:
providing a downward angled dumping section positioned at
said terminating point of said upward angled ascending section;
providing a conveyor belt apparatus located on said dumping
section and adapted to transport produce along said dumping
section from said terminating point of said ascending section to a
terminating point of said dumping section;
transporting said produce along said dumping section to a
terminating point of said dumping section; and
dumping said produce from said terminating point of said
dumping section into a receptacle.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of
providing a trailer coupled to said washing section.